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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2, 3, 10, 17 and 20 without prejudice and substitute for corresponding pending claims the claims as shown rewritten below with amendments effected therein. Appendix I is attached hereto having marked versions of said claims with amendments indicated by brackets and underlining.

1. (Twice Amended) An input apparatus for game systems comprising:

an operation member adapted to receive a load; and

a plurality of detection units arranged such that said operation member is supported at a plurality of points around an outer circumference thereof, each of said detection units being capable of outputting a predetermined detection signal in response to changes in load in a predetermined direction in relation to said operation member,

each of said detection units including a sensing element and a coating member made of elastic material, said coating member coating said sensing element and functioning as a medium to transmit the load applied to said operation member to said sensing element,

said sensing element including one pair of electrode plates arranged to contact or separate from each other according to the load,

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Uncl.

said coating member including a protrusion for limiting a position to which the load toward said sensing element is transmitted, said protrusion being shifted from both longitudinal ends of said electrode plates into a central side thereof,

said coating member being arranged to contact said operation member and support said operation member in the predetermined direction.

B2, B1

4. (Twice Amended) The input apparatus of claim 1, wherein said protrusion is arranged on an outer surface of said coating member.

5. (Twice Amended) The input apparatus of claim 1, wherein said protrusion is arranged on an inner surface of said coating member.

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7. (Twice Amended) The input apparatus of claim 6, wherein said operation member is formed into a panel, and said stopper is located closer to a center of said operation member than said detection unit.

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9. (Twice Amended) An input apparatus for game systems comprising:

a base having a plurality of panel-attaching sections;

an operation member arranged at each of said panel-attaching sections and adapted to receive a load;

a plurality of detection units arranged at each of said panel-attaching sections such that said operation member is supported at a plurality of points around an outer circumference thereof;

a plurality of stoppers for limiting an amount of pushing operation toward said operation member,

said stoppers being arranged inward compared to said plurality of detection unit,

each of said detection units being located between a panel-supporting surface formed on each of said panel-attaching sections and said operation member and being capable of outputting a predetermined detection signal in response to changes in pushing load applied to said operation member,

each of said detection units including a sensing element and a coating member made of elastic material, said coating member coating said sensing element and functioning as a medium to transmit the load applied to said operation member to said sensing element,

said coating member being arranged to contact said operation member and support said operation member.

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B5 1/19/1
11. (Twice Amended) The input apparatus of claim 1, wherein said operation member is a foot panel on which a player is able to stamp.

B6
12. (Amended) The input apparatus of claim 1, wherein said electrode plates comprise a pair of opposed metallic plates and said sensing element further comprises insulating means for separating said metallic plates from one another, said coating member being arranged to overlie an upper one of said metallic plates and lie below a lower one of said metallic plates.

14. (Amended) A foot switch for an input apparatus for game systems comprising:

a frame defining a support surface;

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at least one detection unit arranged on said support surface of said frame and to output a detection signal in response to changes in a load applied in a predetermined direction, each of said at least one detection unit comprising a sensing element and a coating member made of elastic and surrounding said sensing element, said sensing element including a pair of electrode plates arranged to contact or separate from each other according to the load, and said coating member including a protrusion for limiting a position to which the load toward said sensing

element is transmitted, said protrusion being spaced from both longitudinal ends of said electrode plates; and

an operation member adapted to receive a load and arranged in contact with said coating member of said at least one detection unit such that said coating member supports said operation member on said frame and transmits the load received by said operation member to said sensing element.

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concl.

15. (Amended) The foot switch of claim 14, wherein said electrode plates comprise a pair of opposed metallic plates and said sensing element further comprises insulating means for separating said metallic plates from one another, said coating member being arranged to overlie an upper one of said metallic plates and lie below a lower one of said metallic plates.

B8, 19, 20

18. (Amended) The foot switch of claim 14, wherein said protrusion is arranged on at least one of an outer surface and an inner surface of said coating member.

19. (Amended) The foot switch of claim 14, wherein said coating member is elongate and said protrusion extends longitudinally along said coating

B8
concl

member, said protrusion being spaced from longitudinal ends of said coating member.

Please add the following claims.

B8
concl

--27. The input apparatus of claim 9, wherein said operation member is a foot panel on which a player is able to stamp.

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28. An input apparatus for game systems comprising:

- an operation member adapted to receive a load and having an outer surface portion formed into a panel; and
- a detection unit capable of outputting a predetermined detection signal in response to changes in load in a predetermined direction in relation to said operation member, and
- a stopper for limiting displacement of said operation member in relation to the predetermined direction in a certain range,
- said detection unit including a sensing element and a coating member made of elastic material, said coating member coating said sensing element and functioning as a medium to transmit the load applied to said operation member to said sensing element,